

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 4 and 5 have been amended to more accurately define the invention claimed.

Rosler (US Patent No. 4,046,279) discloses a packing container for objects of variable length. The container is formed of two tubular shaped bodies each closed at one end and open at the other. One of the bodies fits into the other in a telescoping manner.

Wagner (US Patent No. 4,326,548) discloses a dental tool for personal oral hygiene. The tool includes a pen barrel shaped holder which carries a curved metal pick. The pick includes an arcuate zone ending at a tapered tip. A removable cap covers the pick when the tool is not in use to simulate a writing implement. Opposite the tip, the pick includes a stem which is seated in the holder.

Applicant's invention is a connector means to prevent the separation of the two parts of a container after they are separated. The elected species of the connector means comprises a short section of material with a reduced section between its two ends, in the form of a waist. The connector means is inserted into an elongated container with the reduced section positioned at an opening means of the container. The connector means will retain the section of the container that will be broken off and still allow entry of air into the container. Neither of the cited prior arts discloses a reduced section between its two ends as in applicant's invention.

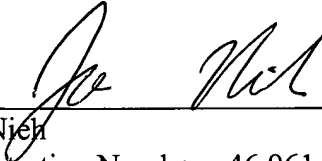
Applicant hereby submits that the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) have all been overcome. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Application No.: 10/645,135

Amendment dated: March 6, 2007

Reply to Office Action of: September 7, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Nieh", is written over a horizontal line.

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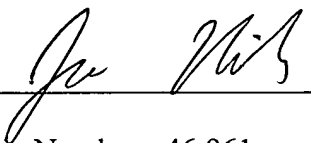
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